



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450

June 3, 2015

## **FAXOGRAM: Water Order Change**

To: Chief, Power Supply and Billing Division, WAPA, Watertown, South Dakota  
Attention: F-6001  
Chief, Power Dispatching Branch, WAPA, Loveland, Colorado  
Attention: J-4120  
Facilities Manager, Hardin, Montana  
Attention: MT-300: Tom Tauscher  
Project Manager, Mills, Wyoming  
Attention: WY-4000, WY-4100, WY-6040  
Assistant Superintendent, National Park Service, Lovell, Wyoming  
Attention: Valerie Newman

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana /s/ Stephanie Micek

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 15-44**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:**

Elevation: 3637.38; Storage: 988,677 acre-feet; River Release: 10,500 cfs; Inflow: 14,600 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Recent streamflow measurements performed by the USGS indicate river flows below Yellowtail Afterbay Dam are higher than anticipated. In addition, tributary streamflows into Bighorn Lake remain high. To control the rate of fill of storage into Bighorn Lake, the following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant and Yellowtail Afterbay Dam.

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 2000 hour on Wednesday, June 3, 2015:**

*Maintain average daily turbine release at 4,830 cfs ( $\approx 3,480$  MW-Hours/day using 33.3 cfs/mw).*

**Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.**

### **YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:**

**At 2000 hour on Wednesday, June 3, 2015:**

*Increase release through the spillway gates to  $\approx 7,425$  cfs.*

### **AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:**

**At 2000 hour on Wednesday, June 3, 2015:**

*Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 325 cfs (gage height = 72.66 with a 0.0 ft shift).*

*Increase river release to 12,000 cfs (increase gage height to 64.34 and apply a new shift of +0.11 ft).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 12,325 cfs*